

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
June 21, 2017

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Vice-Chair Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Zachary Renstrom, Washington County Commissioner
Kerry Gubler, La Verkin Mayor
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City Council
Bette Arial, St. George City Council, Senator Mike Lee's Office
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Transportation Commission, Region 4
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City Council

OTHERS PRESENT

Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Stan Smith, Springdale Mayor
Bruce Densley, Virgin Mayor
Pam Leach, Rockville Mayor
Ken Hooten, La Verkin Mayor
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Chuck Gillette, Ivins City
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
Jim McConnell, UDOT
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Ryan Gurr, SUBA
Jeriah Threlfall, Economic Development
Rusty Lee, Economic Development
Susan Crook, Citizen's of Dixie Future
Courtney Brinkerhoff, Senator Hatch's Office
Jay Aguilar, Five County
Sherry Ruesch, Dixie State University

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Hart welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. It was determined that a quorum existed for voting on action items.

BUSINESS

a. Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2017

MOTION: Motion by Mayor John Bramall to Approve the Minutes of May 17, 2017 DTEC Meeting. Motion Seconded by Councilman Ken Sizemore and Carried by a Unanimous Vote.

b. Unified Planning Work Program (annual contract)

Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Director Myron Lee mentioned that he e-mailed the Unified Planning Work Program to the members and explained that there were only minor changes made since fiscal year (FY) 2017. Coordination of transportation systems between cities, the County and UDOT is still taking place. The FY 2018 budget is \$491,000, which is an \$11,000 increase to be used to fund additional planning programs.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor John Bramall to Approve the Unified Planning Work Program. Motion Seconded by Mayor Jon Pike and Carried by a Unanimous Vote.

c. Set TIP Public Comment Period (July 1 to August 5)

Mr. Lee distributed the proposed changes to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and explained that a motion was needed to open the 2017-2021 Dixie MPO TIP, to include additions for public comment. Additional funding is proposed for Merrill Road; Old Highway 91 from 200 East to Shivwits; and Purgatory Road (Corridor Preservation).

Projects have been previously approved by the DTEC; however, a public comment period must be determined, which is proposed to be from July 1, 2017 to August 5, 2017 in order to coincide with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan's (STIP) public comment period.

(See distributed sheets)

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Ken Sizemore to Open the Public Comment Period for the Transportation Improvement Program from July 1, 2017 to August 5, 2017. Motion Seconded by Mayor John Bramall and Carried by a Unanimous Vote.

d. Planning Grant – La Verkin Master Transportation Plan

Mr. Lee explained that the City of La Verkin has requested a planning grant not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of expenses, up to \$50,000. These funds will be used to compile a transportation master plan for the city.

La Verkin Mayor Kerry Gubler stated that funds are needed for a transportation master plan for La Verkin City as surrounding municipalities have recently completed their respective transportation plans.

Mr. Lee mentioned that funds are available in the DTEC budget. The DTEC has funded transportation plans for Ivins, Santa Clara, St. George, as well as a portion of Washington and Toquerville Cities' plans.

MOTION: Motion by UDOT Commissioner Naghi Zeenati to Approve the Planning Grant not to Exceed 50% of expenses up to \$50,000 for La Verkin City. Motion Seconded by Mayor John Bramall and Carried by a Unanimous Vote.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

a. I-15 Pedestrian Underpass at 400 South

Executive Director of Facilities for Dixie State University (DSU) Sherry Ruesch, explained the overall master plan strategy for the future of DSU, including planning for increased headcount of students, new buildings, and encouraging pedestrian and bike transportation.

A concept of a pedestrian underpass connecting 400 South under I-15 has been mapped and was distributed. Creating the underpass will help connect student housing to multiple portions of the DSU campus as well as pedestrian and bicycle access to the hospital. Creating this access will also encourage students to travel via walking and/or bicycling.

Mayor Pike stated that a fifty percent (50%) match from UDOT was possible if the MPO, St. George City and Dixie State University could provide the remaining funds. The estimated cost of the project is \$2,800,000. DSU has \$600,000 of available funds to commit to the project. Mayor Pike mentioned that St. George City could potentially commit \$600,000 to the project as well.

Mr. Lee stated that there are Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds of approximately \$200,000 that would potentially be available for the project. The funding request would need to be reviewed by the Dixie MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) prior to approval by the DTEC.

UDOT Region Director Rick Torgerson explained that this location was ideal for an underpass, due to the height of the interstate. He also mentioned that an underpass is much more cost effective in comparison to an overpass.

The request for TAC money will go before the next upcoming DTAC meeting in order to present the fifty percent (50%) match to the UDOT Commission.

(See attached map)

b. Recreation Hot Spot Funding

Mr. Lee distributed a spreadsheet showing the increased visitation to Zion National Park from 1979 to 2017. The MPO would like several projects to be recommended to receive some of the Recreational Hot Spot Funding to help reduce congestion in Springdale near Zion National Park. In order to qualify for funding, projects must reduce congestion, enhance recreation, and contribute to economic development.

Several projects that have been presented include a transit system from St. George to Springdale and creating ingresses and egresses for Big Plains and Sheep Bridge Roads as well as adding recreational areas.

Mayor Bramall mentioned that if there were a transit system in place which made stops at hotels located in Hurricane, LaVerkin and Springdale, along the way to Zion, it would relieve a lot of the parking and congestion issues that Springdale is currently facing.

It was discussed that if hotels were to purchase transit passes and sell them to guests, that revenue could potentially cover a large portion of the cost incurred by the transit system. System costs could be measured after a five (5) year period to evaluate the revenue and costs incurred by the transit system.

Applications must be prepared by August to submit to UDOT. It is important to show why the projects need funding as well as how the projects would benefit the area both recreationally and economically.

A draft list of projects projected to receive funding is anticipated to be available in October 2017 for public comment with a final list available by December 2017.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS UPDATES

a. UDOT Updates

Mr. Torgerson mentioned that the deck for the bridge has been poured between Exits 4 and 5. Traffic will be moved onto the new bridge within a few weeks. There are some concerns with merging and rerouting in the area and several options are being determined. The project is on schedule to be completed in November, 2017.

There will be nightly closures near 1000 East over the next several weeks in order to mill and pave the intersection.

Micro surfacing has been occurring from 10:00 PM to approximately 5:00 AM each night on Interstate 15.

The Springdale project is anticipated to be advertised mid-July.

b. Federal Updates

Senator Hatch representative Courtney Brinkerhoff mentioned that Bears Ears National Monument has been recommended to be reduced in size.

Ms. Brinkerhoff distributed a summary of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) bill. The bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to issue new resource management plans for the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area and the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, as well as an amendment to the St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan to include plans for a northern transportation route.

(See attached bill)

Commissioner Renstrom stated that comments regarding road use need to be submitted by the public by the end of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

None presented

NEXT MEETING

DTEC meeting: August 16, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cheyenne Bentley